Year	National Network	Regional Network
1994	1	11
1995	2	11
1996 (till date)	2	07

Beds to be kept for free treatment in privats hospitals

3004. MAULANA ODAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARB be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 to 50% of the beds in private hospital are to be kept for free treatment;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of private hospitals ate floating the norm; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OP HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In the past, private hospitls nursing homes were allowed to import medical equipment at concessional rate of custom duty subject to the condition that certain percentage of free treatment will be provided in OPD/VD to (he poor. The State Governments am required to check whether these condition are being met by Private hospitals/Nursing home

Permanent account mumbers of income tax payera in the country

3005. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total munber of income tax payers in the country as on does showing the number of body corporate and individual tax payers separately;

(b) whether parmenmt account numbers has been allotted to every income tax payer in the country; and

(c) if not, what is the backlog and by when all the tax payors awe likely to be allotted permanent account number by the Income Tax Department?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The information regarding number of income tax payers in the coumry is as under:

(i) total number of income tax payers as on 31-12-95— 102.60 lakhs;

(ii) number of companies out of (i) above —1 .88 lakhs;

(iii) number of individuals out of (i) above — 84.26 lakhs; and

(iv) others — 16.46 lakhs.

(b) and (c) Substantial number of the tax payers have been allotted Permanent Account Number under old series. However as part of Comprehensive Computerisation and to ensure uniqueness in the first phase, Permanent Account Number under New Series is being allotted since April, 1995 in Delhi, Mumbai and Madras to taxpayers. Out of 17.31 lakh taxpayers, who had filed returns of income in these cities, 12.63 lakh taxpayers have filled in application forms required for allotment of PAN under the new series. Out of this 6,95,653 taxpayers have been allotted PAN under the new series and 4,39,524 forms were found deficient for which taxpayers have been approached.

Allotment of Permanent Account Number under new series in the rest of the country is being taken up in a phased manner.

Deregulating lending rate of Regional Rural Banks

3006. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to deregulate the lending rate of Regional Rural Banks (RRB's);

(b) whether any proposal was under consideration of Government since long;

(c) if so, the idea behind the proposal; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) In the context of the need for ensuring viability of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and ensuring the flow of adequate and sustainable credit to the rural sector, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has

decided that RRBs would be free to determine their lending rate with effect from 26th August, 1996.

विदेशी बैंकों/वित्तीय संस्थानों की निक्षेप राशि में 30 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि

3007. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान विदेशी बैंक और अन्य विदेशी वित्तीय संस्थान अपनी निक्षेप राशि और खातों की संख्या में 30 प्रतिशत से अधिक की वृद्धि करने में विफल रहे हैं:

(ख) क्या सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंक उक्त अवधि के दौरान अपनी जमापूंजी में अपेक्षित स्तर तक वृद्धि करने में सफल रहे हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) इसमें सुधार लाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं/उठाये जाने का विचार है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम): (क) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (आरबीआई) द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनुसार, विदेशी बैंकों और सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों के पास जमाराशि की वृद्धि दर नीचे दी गई है:-

(प्रतिशतता)

वर्ष	विदेशी बैंक	सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंक
1993-94	13.2	16.8
1994-95	11.1	20.3
1995-96	10.00	12.0

(ख) जैसाकि उपर्युक्त आंकड़ों से स्पष्ट है, गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों की जमाराशियों की वृद्धि दर विदेशी बैंकों की जमाराशि वृद्धि-दर की अपेक्षा उच्चतर थी।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Possibility of tax avoiance due to deep discount bonds

3008. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the introduction of deep discount bonds by some public financial institutions has opened up the possibility of tax avoidance through transactions in the stock exchanges; and

(b) whether there is any justification for treating these bonds differently from the reinvestment scheme floated by the Unit Trust of India in 1996?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE SHRI (P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b)The various tax related issues arising out of floating of deep discount bonds by some public financial institutions are under consideration of the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

Insurance Regulatory body

3009. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an insurance regulatory body during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a move will strengthen the insurance sector of the country in any way;

(d) whether some concrete objectives are to be achieved with such moves; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA), with adequate powers will be necessary to monitor the insurance operations and ensure healthy growth of insurance market, even in the present set up of nationalised insurance sector. Therefore, an interim Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) was set up by the Government in January, 1996. The Government has already announced its intention in July, 1996 to introduce a Bill to make it a statutory body with requisite powers for enabling it to deal with all matters relating to the promotion and orderly growth of the insurance market and propose a comprehensive legislation for this purpose subject to the overall directions and guidelines of the Government.